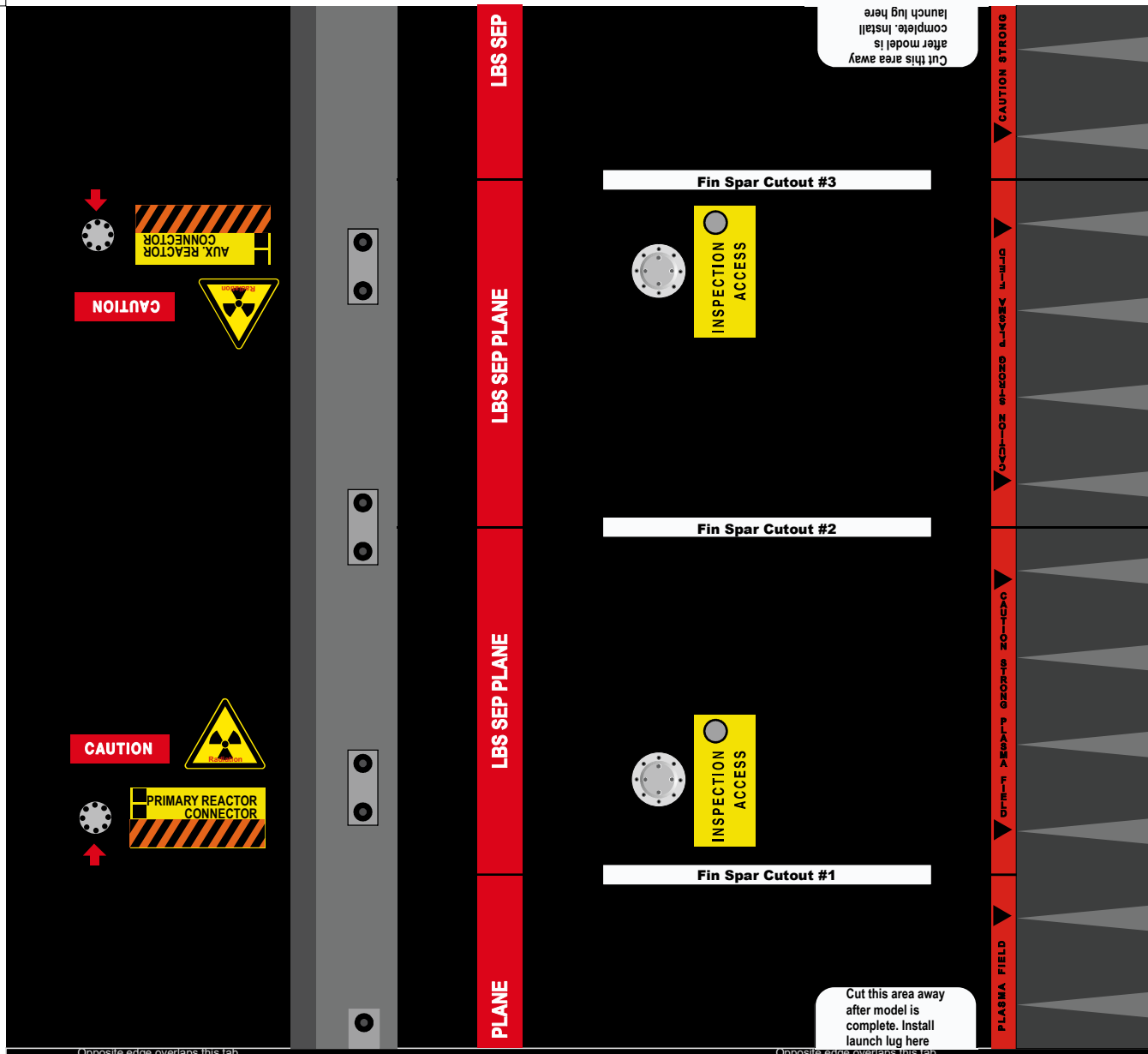


Spray light coat of clear (such as Blair 500 Digi-Finish) to sheet before using



Estes Trajector™ “Midnight” Skin Kit Application Instructions

General Preparation

This kit is intended to be applied to an unbuilt Estes Trajector™ kit. However, a moderately advanced modeler can, with care, cut the skin into smaller sections that can be applied to a previously completed Trajector™ kit.

Remove and examine each of the four sheets of the kit so that you are familiar with what each sheet contains. Also, each sheet is marked with an instruction to spray the sheet with a very light coat of clear spray before using. This is primarily a protective measure against soiling of the skin while you are cutting it out and applying it and is up to the modeler whether or not to do so at the start of construction. However, the clear spray also greatly toughens the coating on the skin material (which is itself polyvinyl).

Only the nosecone and the body of the Trajector™ are “skinned.” Start by skinning the body tube first to familiarize yourself with the handling and properties of the material. Skin the nosecone last.

Make sure the surfaces to which the skin is applied are clean and free of any projections as the smallest imperfection will show through the skin. Also be sure your workspace is absolutely clean of dust and other foreign matter to prevent such material from becoming “invisible stuck” to the adhesive of the skin while you are working with it. Also make sure your hands are absolutely clean and dry when working with the skin kit (the skins are largely waterproof but moisture on your hands will also pick up any dirt they touch which will transfer to the skin printed surface or the adhesive during application).

Just about any quality Gloss Clear Enamel spray can be used for the initial light coating of the skins before they are applied to the model. However, after trying many different clear sprays I recommend ACE Premium Enamel Gloss Clear. It applies very evenly and doesn't yellow and, if you decided to do so, it can be applied in relatively heavy final coats without the risk of distorting the skin material. Other sprays may cause the joints and overlapping areas of the skin to “pucker” ever so slightly...though it is so slight that most won't notice.

Finally, use a brand new #11 type blade and a metal straight edge when cutting and trimming the skin sections. It is also best to cut on a “cut friendly” surface (something that won't dull the tip of your knife such as a smooth wood surface, a sheet of heavy card stock, or [best] a “self healing” cutting matt).

Covering the Body Tube

Note that one edge of each skin section on each sheet has “Apply this edge first” along and just outside one edge of the printed skin area. Make a mental note of what edge of the skin this is.

For the aft body tube skin covering, follow the instructions titled **Aft Skin Section Application** below.

After you have applied the aft skin, move to Sheet 2 and follow the instructions for **Middle Skin Section Application**.

Finally, after you have applied the Middle Skin Section, move to Sheet 3 and follow the instructions for applying the **Forward Skin Section Application**

Check applied skin. If you discover any “air pockets” you can gently prick through the skin to release the trapped air.

You may want to apply another light coat of the clear spray to the whole body tube at this point to seal all edges. After this “sealing” coat or clear spray, I suggest 4 or more coats of Pledge Floor Polish be applied.

After the body is covered, go back and make sure the Fin Spar Cutouts completely clear the cutouts in the body tube

Questions? Contact johnpursley@accur8.com

Apply this body tube wrap first

Sheet 1

Rev 3-2-17

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Apply this edge first

Aft Skin Section Application

After cutting skin out, rest on a clean flat surface, facing up. Also cut out the “Fin Spar Cutout #1” rectangle (you may also cut out the other two fin spar cutouts if you like).

Carefully peel back the covering from this edge marked “Apply this edge first” on expose about 1” of the backing. Cut away approx 1/4” of the backing from this edge. Flip skin over and replace the backing you cut away, making sure the slick side of the backing goes back against the adhesive of the skin.

Tightly wrap the skin around body tube (printed side facing out) so that the aft edge of this wrap (nearest “Strong Magnetic Field strip”) is flush with the end of the body tube (the end nearest the three fin cut outs) fore and aft ends of the wrap edges of this wrap are even. **Make sure Fin Spar Cutout #1 aligns on all edges with one of the fin spar cutout in the body tube.** Still holding wrap on body tube tightly with one hand, use your other hand to lift this edge and remove the 1/4” backing strip. Press the exposed adhesive against body tube along the length of the wrap.

Release the wrap that you have been holding tightly around the body tube and “swing” it out such that it “hinges” away from the body tube along the 1/4” backing cut line. The backing will release from the covering along this line once you have folded it back far enough. Carefully adhere the remainder of the skin to body tube slowly working around the tube circumference while lightly burnishing the adhesive to the tube by running your finger back and forth on the surface of the skin as you progress around the circumference.

Apply this
body tube wrap second

Questions? Contact johnpursley@accur8.com

Cut this area away
after model is
complete. Install
launch lug here

6L76-XQ

CAUTION: MICROWAVE RADIATION

RELEASE PRESS.
BEFORE DISASSEMBLY

SEE USAF-8081
FOR MAINT. INSTR.

CAUTION: MICROWAVE RADIATION

DX-9719

Cut this area away
after model is
complete. Install
launch lug here

Opposite edge overlaps this tab

Opposite edge overlaps this tab

Sheet 2

Middle Skin Section Application.

After cutting skin out, rest on a clean flat surface, facing up. Carefully peel back the covering from this edge to expose about 1" of the backing. Cut away approx 1/4" of the backing from this edge. Flip skin over and replace the backing you cut away, making sure the slick side of the backing goes back against the adhesive of the skin. Tightly wrap the skin around body tube (printed side facing out) so that the aft edge of this wrap (red stripe roll pattern) butts against the fore edge of the aft body tube wrap and the fore and aft ends of the wrap edges of this wrap are even. Make sure the long overlapping seam of this wrap aligns with the seam of the previously applied wrap. Still holding wrap on body tube tightly with one hand, use your other hand to lift this edge and remove the 1/4" backing strip. Press the exposed adhesive against body tube along the length of the wrap.

Release the wrap that you have been holding tightly around the body tube and "swing" it out such that it "hinges" away from the body tube along the 1/4" backing cut line. The backing will release from the covering along this line once you have folded it back far enough. Carefully adhere the remainder of the skin to body tube slowly working around the tube circumference while lightly burnishing the adhesive to the tube by running your finger back and forth on the surface of the skin as you progress around the circumference.

Spray light coat of clear (such as Blair 500 Digi-Finish) to sheet before using

Covering the Nose Cone

Covering the nosecone requires a bit more care and attention to its application than you encountered with the body tube but still not that difficult if you just take your time.

For best results, use a filler such as Squadron White putty to fill all the grooves and "gunports". DO NOT fill the groove that runs unbroken all the way around the nosecone just aft of the cockpit and about 3/4" forward of the cone-to-cylinder transition. After sanding everything smooth, give the nosecone a coat of silver or light grey. Filling all the grooves is optional...the skin will go over them just fine but you will be able to see them through the skin (which really isn't bad).

Cut the nosecone skin from Sheet 4 noting which edge is marked "Apply this edge first." After the skin is cut from the main sheet, cut very forwardmost nosecone skin section along the curved line just ahead of the blue "cut away" areas. Don't discard the smaller section. Also, cut about 3/8" of the backing away from this edge and replace as you did with the body tube sections.

The red line in the yellow "Linear Charge" stripe aligns exactly over the groove just behind the cockpit canopy mentioned above. The "Apply this edge first" edge of the skin aligns along the top centerline of the cockpit. Use the mold line seam of the nosecone as a guide. Make sure that the two ends of the red "Linear Charge" stripe align both end-to-end and over the nosecone groove. Finally, make sure the two light blue "cut away" areas over the cockpit canopy are even on each side (they will not completely cover the canopy). Once satisfied with positioning and while still holding the wrap tightly to the nosecone, lift the edge with the 3/8" backing strip and carefully remove the strip.

Very carefully "stick" exposed skin down to the very top of the canopy along the centerline, working your way down into the "valley" formed by the junction of the raised cockpit and the conical section of the nosecone. You want to be sure that the skin actually goes all the way into this valley and securely adheres without bridging the valley. Finish sticking the skin in place all the way toward the small end of the nosecone. Once the 3/8" strip of skin is adhered in place, release the remainder of the skin and "swing" it up along the 3/8" cut line. Carefully work around the nosecone adhering the skin in place until the wrap is almost completely around the nosecone at the "valley" on the other side of the cockpit. You will want to make sure the skin snuggles down in this valley before finally finishing along the top centerline.

As you are working the skin into place you DON'T want to tightly adhere the very aft edge of the skin. If you try to stick the aft edge down during application, you will end up with ugly wrinkles due to the slight compound curve that is formed between the conical and cylindrical portions of the nosecone.

Cut along the edges of the light blue areas of the cockpit canopy cutaways and peel them off to expose the canopy windows. Optional "framed" canopy windows are included in the skin set to a little bit "extra" to the model.

Next apply the forwardmost nosecone skin. Its seam runs along the bottom of the nose. Use the mold seam as a guide. The grey glare shield centers in front of the cockpit canopy. Only about 3/16" of the tip of the plastic nose will be exposed when you are complete.

Though the polyvinyl material the skin is printed on is not designed to be heat shrinkable it WILL shrink slightly under fairly high heat and light pressure applied by a small clothes iron or a "covering iron" sometimes called a Monokote Iron that is available for about \$15 at your local RC airplane shop. You can heat shrink most of the wrinkles out by setting the iron to the cotton setting (or "High" for a covering iron). You might want to test the heat setting by touching the iron to a scrap of covering to make sure it doesn't melt the covering material after touching for about a second. Once satisfied with heat setting, begin removing wrinkles by very lightly touching one end (the end of the wrinkle nearest the small end of the nosecone) of each wrinkle with the tip of the iron. Only touch very lightly for one second but no more than two seconds. Then immediately lift and move the iron a little further along the wrinkle (about 1/64" or so) and repeat. Though it sounds tedious, the process goes rather quickly. Also, NEVER slide the iron...just touch and apply light pressure straight against the wrinkle.

Once you get all the wrinkles worked down, follow up by setting the iron heat cooler by about 24% (wait for it to drop to that temp) and then "roll" the edge of the covering under the flat surface working all the way around the aft edge of the covering.

You may end up with a few creases or "ugly" attempts to iron out the wrinkles but don't worry. Unless you made a real mess the wrinkles will go almost unnoticed against the grey color pattern of the skin. If you just can live with the wrinkles, carefully cut along the printed line that runs around the rear edge of the skin and remove the offending wrinkled section. The nosecone will still look just fine with an exposed band of silver or grey painted nosecone surface.

Repeat the skinning and the "dewrinkling" process for the aft (cylindrical) nosecone wrap. Again, if you end up with unbearable wrinkles, just cut along the printed line and expose the base nosecone. You can also paint the "gap" yellow, orange, or black and the results will be quite nice.

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Cut out and apply "clutter" badges and logos over mismatched graphics intersections, surface blemishes, etc. to hide imperfections

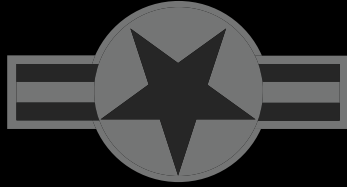


Forward edge of body tube



PRESSURE VENT

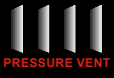
APU CONN.



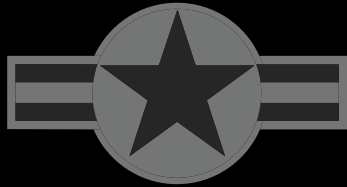
U.S. AIR FORCE



PRESSURE VENT



PRESSURE VENT

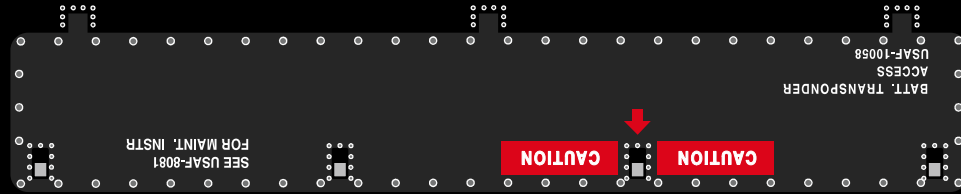


U.S. AIR FORCE

APU CONN.



PRESSURE VENT



Opposite edge overlaps this tab

Opposite edge overlaps this tab

Apply this edge first
Apply this body tube wrap last

Sheet 3
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Assemble the Model and Clear Coat

Assemble the model according to the instructions. When finished, I recommend applying several coats of Pledge Floor Polish (Future) using a "paint pad" made with a VIVA paper towel folded to about 8 layers thick. Just squirt a bit of Pledge to saturate one corner of the pad and then "wipe" the model down with a thin uniform layer and let dry. Repeat for about 4-6 coats. Don't worry, Pledge dries quickly and the process doesn't take long

As a final step, cut away the skin where the launch lugs go and glue them in place using epoxy or thick CA.

Spray light coat of clear (such as Blair 500 Digi-Finish) to sheet before using

Forward Skin Section Application

After cutting skin out, rest on a clean flat surface, facing up. Carefully peel back the covering from this edge to expose about 1" of the backing. Cut away approximately 1/4" of the backing from this edge. Flip skin over and replace the backing you cut away, making sure the slick side of the backing goes back against the adhesive of the skin. Tightly wrap the skin around body tube (printed side facing out) so that the aft edge of this wrap (yellow stripe) butts against the fore edge of the middle body tube wrap and the fore and aft ends of the wrap edges are even. Make sure the long overlapping seam of this wrap aligns with the seam of the previously applied wrap. Still holding wrap on body tube tightly with one hand, use your other hand to lift this edge and remove the 1/4" backing strip. Press the exposed adhesive against body tube along the length of the wrap.

Release the wrap that you have been holding tightly around the body tube and "swing" it out such that it "hinges" away from the body tube along the 1/4" backing cut line. The backing will release from the covering along this line once you have folded it back far enough. Carefully adhere the remainder of the skin to body tube slowly working around the tube circumference while lightly burnishing the adhesive to the tube by running your finger back and forth on the surface of the skin as you progress around the circumference.

